

From: Patrice & Paul Linehan [pml2kc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2007 5:45 PM
To: Darton, Terry
Subject: Close Mirant Power Plant in Alexandria
Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Dear Terry Darton:

We sincerely hope the Commonwealth of Virginia does its utmost to protect its citizens from the very grave environmental pollution hazards emanating from the Mirant power plant in Alexandria.

We have lived in Alexandria for the past twelve years, about two miles to the immediate west of the plant. On many occasions we have witnessed plumes of noxious fumes from the smoke stacks of the plant. At times in the early morning when the air is still I can smell the exhaust and pollution from the power plant. These smells reminded me of the industrial area on the outskirts of the waterfront in Boston nearby where I grew up. These two power plants – the Boston Edison and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority plants – like Mirant, regularly spewed fossil fuel pollutants into the air in violation of Federal and State environmental regulations, while making promises to improve air quality standards to no avail.

Due to citizen, State, and Federal action, both of these power plants were forced to close, but unfortunately, not before record cancer rates were recorded in and around the area of the power plants. Many of my neighbors contracted various forms of cancer most notably respiratory cancer. We have lost parents, both non-smokers, to lung cancer. Though it is very difficult to prove that the power plants had a direct role in their deaths, the high instances of cancer and cancer deaths in such a concentrated area was the subject of a large federal health research studies that indicated the pollution from these power plants were, at a minimum, a major contributing factor into these cancer cases.

We have two small children aged seven and six who we are now raising in Alexandria – near the Mirant power plant. We earnestly hope that the Commonwealth of Virginia will do all it can to ensure that our health and safety is not compromised by an anachronistic power plant from which Virginians derive no energy benefit whatsoever.

We trust your department will do the right thing and close this plant immediately.

Thank you very much.

Paul and Patrice Linehan
401 E.Monroe Ave.,
Alexandria, Virginia